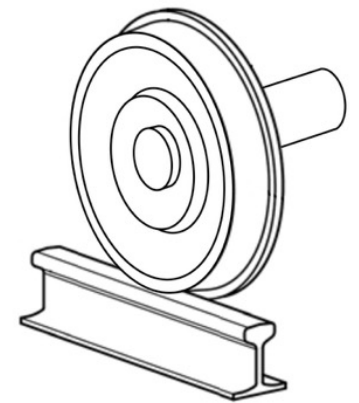


Next Generation Approaches for Railway Wheel/Rail Interface Management - NextGen-WRI Network funding opportunity

September 2025

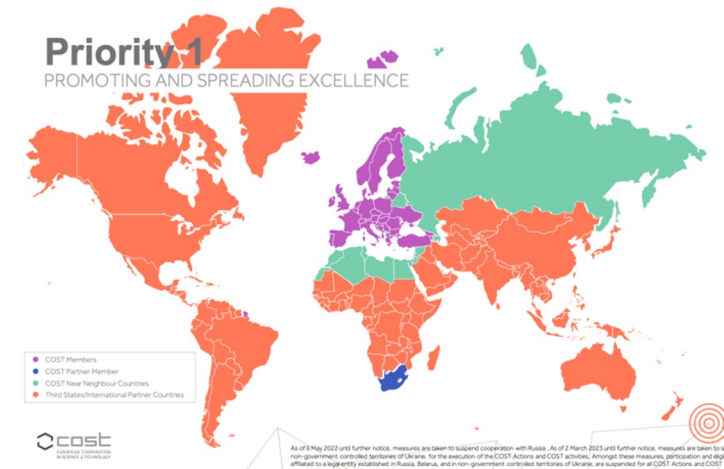
David Fletcher, Roger Lewis, Kate Tomlinson, Sylvie Chenier

Contact D.I.Fletcher@Sheffield.ac.uk



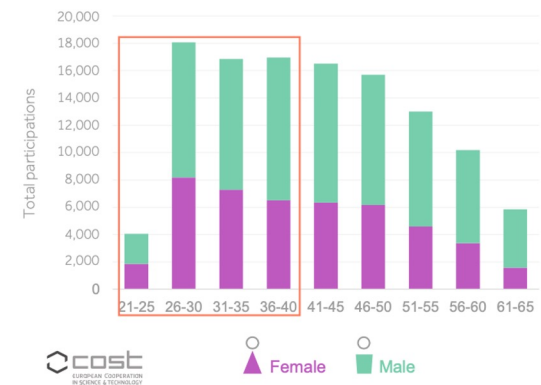
Network funding opportunity

- COST - **Co**operation in **S**cience and **T**echnology
- **ICRI is working really well**, but without funding it relies a lot on ‘spare time’ support, limiting what is possible
- The EU COST programme is a 4 year networking grant **open to participation from members worldwide.**
- It can fund **virtual and real-world events**, staff exchanges (“scientific missions”) and workshops.
- Funding for **events** such as ICRI workshops can provide more members with opportunities to host and participate
- **Funding is quite small** (~€130-150k/year in total) but that’s enough to support some events and help people who could not otherwise participate (students, younger people, low incomes etc.)



Priority 2 FOSTERING INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH FOR BREAKTHROUGH SCIENCE

Priority 3 EMPOWERING AND RETAINING YOUNG RESEARCHERS



What is included?

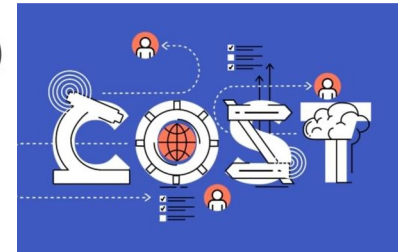
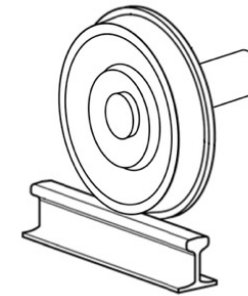
“Working groups” planned:

1. Friction measurement and modelling
2. Wear/RCF modelling and mapping
3. Maintenance (grinding/milling, lubrication, rail profile management)
4. Vehicle-track interaction economics
5. Vehicle dynamics
6. Quality and risk management

Join as an attendee

Or get more involved -
leading a working group?

These positions will be
selected at an initial
meeting after the
network starts



The focus is **networking** and **capacity building** (it's not a *research project*)

- Developing common understanding and terminology
- Coordinate trials and benchmark studies
- Plan future funding applications for new research
- Foster knowledge exchange and build a community
- Provide education and training events

Working with ICRI - not a
duplicate organisation

How do I get involved?

How to join the NextGen-WRI COST proposal

1. Tell us you are interested, either by personal contact or through the ICRI email address: ICRI-RCF@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca.
2. You will need to set up a short personal expertise profile on the EU COST site. This takes ½ to 1 hour covering areas including name/address profile, organisational affiliations, scientific expertise, education, and uploading a curriculum vitae: <https://www.cost.eu>.
3. You will receive an invitation email through which you can join the NextGen-WRI proposal.

Timelines

Submission is mid October 2025 – please contact us **now** or as soon as possible.

Questions?

